

REMARKS

The Official Action of December 2, 2005, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1, 4 and 6-15, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been canceled and new claims 14 and 15 added. Claims 1, 4 and 6-15 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's election requirement, Applicant elects to pursue further prosecution of Species I (Figs. 3-5) with traverse. Applicant considers that claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and new claims 14 and 15 read on the elected species, wherein claims 1 and 14 are generic to all the species.

As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the generic feature of canceled claim 2 covering "means for defining... a plurality of crevices" as shown in the figures (see crevices 30/ in Fig. 3; crevices 40/ in Fig. 6; crevices 46/ in Fig. 11; and crevices 52Ab, 52Bb in Fig. 15).

Given that the generic claims now include the primary inventive features of the claimed invention, Applicant traverses the Examiner's election requirement. Applicant

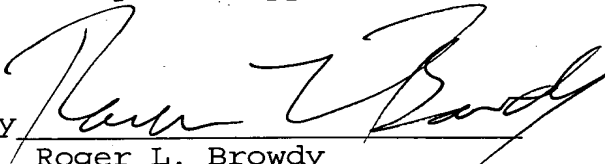
submits that the identified inventions are so related due to the inclusion of their primary inventive features in the generic claims that the Examiner cannot show that they require either a separate classification or if classified together, a separate status in the art or a different field of search. Given the above, the field of search is limited to the extent that it would not be an undue burden for the Examiner to search all the identified species.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his election requirement and consider all the remaining claims in his review.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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